NOAA Okeanos Explorer Program

MAPPING DATA REPORT

CRUISE EX0907

Mapping Field Trials IV

Habitat Characterization

Cordell Bank & Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries Expansion Areas

July 14 23, 2009 Astoria, OR to San Francisco, CA

Report Contributors:

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1. Introduction





The Okeanos Explorer Program

Commissioned in August 2008, the NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer is the nation's only federal vessel dedicated to ocean

exploration. With 95% of the world's oceans left unexplored, the ship's combination of scientific and technological tools uniquely positions it to systematically explore new areas of our largely unknown ocean. These exploration cruises are explicitly designed to generate hypotheses and lead to further investigations by the wider scientific community.

Using a high-resolution multibeam sonar with water column capabilities, a deep water remotely operated vehicle, and telepresence technology, *Okeanos Explorer* provides NOAA the ability to foster scientific discoveries by identifying new targets in real time, diving on those targets shortly after initial detection, and then sending this information back to shore for immediate near-real-time collaboration with scientists and experts at Exploration Command Centers around the world. The subsequent transparent and rapid dissemination of information-rich products to the scientific community ensures that discoveries are immediately available to experts in relevant disciplines for research and analysis

Through the *Okeanos Explorer* Program, NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research (OER) provides the nation with unparalleled capacity to discover and investigate new oceanic regions and phenomena, conduct the basic research required to document discoveries, and seamlessly disseminate data and information-rich products to a multitude of users. The program strives to develop technological solutions and innovative applications to critical problems in undersea exploration and to provide resources for developing, testing, and transitioning solutions to meet these needs.

Okeanos Explorer Management – a unique partnership within NOAA

The *Okeanos Explorer* Program combines the capabilities of the NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* with shore-based high speed networks and infrastructure for systematic telepresence-enabled exploration of the world ocean. The ship is operated, managed and maintained by NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, which includes commissioned officers of the NOAA Corps and civilian wage mariners. OER owns and is responsible for operating and managing the cutting-edge ocean exploration systems on the vessel (ROV, mapping and telepresence) and ashore including Exploration Command Centers and terrestrial high speed networks. The ship and shore-based infrastructure combine to be the only federal program dedicated to systematic telepresence-enabled exploration of the planet's largely unknown ocean.

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2. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to briefly describe the mapping data collection and processing methods, and to report the results of the cruise. For a detailed description of the *Okeanos Explorer* mapping capabilities, see appendix C and the ship's readiness report, which can be obtained by contacting the ships operations officer (<u>ops.explorer@noaa.gov</u>).

3. Cruise Objectives

Cruise EX0907 had two separate objectives. The primary cruise objective was to test, troubleshoot, refine, and evaluate *Okeanos Explorer* mapping systems, sensors, protocols, and processes as they related to the systematic exploration mission of the ship. Specific goals pertaining to this objective were:

- Assessment of bottom backscatter data quality
- Resolution of interference between EM302, EA600, and Knudsen Sub-bottom sonars
- Continued refinement of data products, pipeline, documentation, and sensor integration

The secondary cruise objective was to continue preparation, personnel training, and evaluation of non-mapping *Okeanos Explorer* systems and sensors. Specific goals pertaining to this objective were:

- VSAT system trial
- Preparation for the 24 July public relations event
- CIMS trial

Both objectives were completed within the context of mapping in the vicinity of Cordell Bank and the Gulf of the Farallones, which are of national and regional interest.

4. Participating personnel

| NAME | ROLE | AFFILIATION |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|
| CDR Joseph Pica | Commanding Officer | NOAA Corps |

| Mashkoor Malik | Cruise Coordinator/Mapping | NOAA OER |
|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| | Team Lead | |
| LTJG Kyle Byers | Acting Field Operations Officer | NOAA Corps |
| Colleen Peters | Senior Survey Technician | NOAA OMAO |
| Lorraine Anglin | ONMS Representative | ONMS |
| Andrea LeBarge | Mapping Watchstander | NOAA OER Intern |
| Christopher Paul | Mapping Watchstander | NOAA OER Intern |
| Elena Crete | Mapping Watchstander | NOAA OER Intern |
| Gregory Beadle | Mapping Watchstander | NOAA OER Intern |
| Samuel Baldwin | Mapping Watchstander | NOAA OER Intern |
| Denise Gordon | NCDDC CIMS team | NCDDC |
| McKinley Freeman | NCDDC CIMS team | NCDDC |

5. Cruise Statistics

| Dates | JD197 to JD203 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Weather delays | 0 days |
| Total non-mapping days | 0 days |
| Total survey mapping days | 7 days |
| Total transit mapping days | 2.5 days |
| Line kilometers of survey | 2477 km |
| Beginning draft | 4.34 m (bow) 4.42 m (stern) |
| Average ship speed for survey | 7.9 kts |

6. Mapping sonar setup

NOAA *Okeanos Explorer* (EX) is equipped with a 30 kHz Kongsberg EM 302 multibeam sonar and a 3.5 kHz Knudsen sub-bottom profiler (SBP 3260). During this cruise EM 302 bottom bathymetric / backscatter along with water column data were collected. The Knudsen Sub-bottom profiler was only operated for the purposes of testing interference between EM 302 and Knudsen on 15-16 July 2009 up to depth of ~ 2000 m and was found to work satisfactorily at the same time with the EM 302 with no interference observed in EM 302.

The ship used a POS-MV ver. 4 to record and correct the multibeam data for any motion. C-NAV GPS system provided DGPS correctors with position accuracy expected to be better than 2.0 m.

All the corrections (motion, sound speed profile, sound speed at sonar head, draft, sensor offsets) are applied during real time data acquisition in SIS ver. 1.04. XBT casts (Deep Blue, max depth 760 m) were taken every 6 hours (0000, 0600, 1200 and 1800 local time). XBT cast data were converted to a SIS compliant format using NOAA Velocwin ver. 8.92 Plus.

7. Data acquisition plan

The data were collected during transit from Astoria, OR, to working grounds (15-16 July) in the vicinity of Cordell bank National Marine Sanctuary. Active data acquisition in the working grounds was carried out 16 - 22 July.

Due to large depth variations, the lines were planned to run parallel to the contour lines and the whole area was divided into four sub areas with line spacing of 750 m, 1500 m, 3000 m and 6000 m respectively.

Most of the shallow water areas (with depths < 400 m) demanded line spacing of 750 m. Throughout the survey, the EM 302 data provided 3-5 times water depth coverage.

The weather got worse on 18 July with 7-12 ft swells from the north and remained rough until the end of the survey. As the northbound lines caused the ship to pitch heavily, a lot of bubble sweep down episodes were observed in the northbound lines, which caused the sonar to loose bottom track. During heavy weather the sonar also suffered from decreased swath coverage and therefore a lot of additional lines were run to fill in the data holidays.



Figure 1. Survey areas showing priorities.



Figure 2. Screen shot of HYPACK showing different lines run during the survey. Image credit: NOAA.

8. Multibeam Data Quality Assessment and Data Processing

Onboard processing of bathymetric data was done in CARIS HIPS ver. 6.1 during which the data were cleaned in 'Swath Editor' and 'Subset Editor'. No tidal corrections were applied during post processing; however, no appreciable differences were observed between different lines by not applying tidal corrections.

The cross lines yielded a favorable comparison between main scheme lines and cross lines.



Figure 3. Screen grab of subset editor in CARIS HIPS showing agreement of cross lines (pink) with main scheme lines. Image credit: NOAA.



Figure 4. Images of the final grids (at 50 m) cell size resolution of the priority area 1 and 2. Image created in CARIS HIPS 6.1.

Onboard processing of water column data remained minimal due to the difficulty in discerning biological targets from noise in the water column data. Water column data from the survey have been provided with the cruise data.

Onboard processing of bottom backscatter data were conducted using the University of New Hampshire research tool 'Geocoder'. The results obtained during fair weather are encouraging but during the days when the weather was choppy, a lot of bubble sweep down issues degraded bottom backscatter data quality severely. At the time of filing of this report, we are not sure whether they weather effects can be taken care of during post processing. The ship is also expected to contact Kongsberg, Inc. regarding these backscatter artifacts.



Figure 5. Backscatter mosaic results with 40 m grid cell size. Severe degradation of backscatter data due to bubble sweep down is clearly visible in the central region of the survey.

The latest patch test for the EM 302 was performed in May 2009 which showed only a pitch bias of 0.7 degrees. These patch test values were used during data acquisition throughout this cruise.

| July 2009 | | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Mission party | Baldwin and | In transit to | Arrived at | Mapping in | Weather | Weather still |
| onboard the | Crete arrived | the working | working | Priority 1 and | getting worse | preventing |
| ship except | 1030. | grounds. | grounds ~ | 2 of | with very | data |
| Baldwin and | Left Astoria, | | 1400 | expansion | little useable | collection |
| Crete | OR 1230 | | | areas | data in north | northbound |
| | | | | | bound line | |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 27 |
| Mapping in | Mapping in | Mapping in | Return to San | | | |
| ONMS areas | ONMS areas | Dump site. | Francisco | | | |
| wrapping up. | wrapping up | USS | | | | |
| Running | | Independence | | | | |
| cross lines | | investigation | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

9. Cruise Calendar

10. Daily cruise log

(ALL TIMES LOCAL PACIFIC DAYLIGHT TIME)

July 14, 2009

Ship sailed at 1230. Original sailing at 0900 was delayed due to flight cancellation of Baldwin and Crete who spent ~ 36 hrs traveling from Durham, NH, to Astoria, OR. Mission party met with Peters and Malik to discuss briefly cruise objectives and introductions. Lt Byers also welcomed the mission party and briefed about essential safety issues. Initial orientation with mission control room and mapping operations along with XBT operations was provided by Peters.

July 15, 2009

Ship is in transit to working grounds off the coast of CA.

July 16, 2009

Ship passed over several plume sites during 15/16 night. The ship was directed to make another pass and resulted in finding more than 3 plume sites in addition to the one detected in the May 2009 mapping field trial cruise. Arrived at working grounds and started mapping.



Figure 6. At least five plume sites visible with multibeam—50 m grid, compiled in Fledermaus.

July 17, 2009

Ship continued to work in the sanctuary expansion areas priority 1 and 2.

July 18, 2009

The weather has been progressively getting worst. Large swells (~ 5-10 ft) are causing ship to pitch and the bubble sweep down is causing EM 302 to loose bottom track. Reducing survey speed to 5 kts helped little bit but still the data quality during north bound lines is degraded severely. Discussions are in progress to rerun these north bound lines at the end of the survey.

July 19, 2009

The weather is still bad for the north bound lines and north bound lines have to be run again to make useable data. The survey was broken off to fill in few holidays left in the shallow part of the survey. Resumed main scheme lines.

July 20, 2009

Mapping in the area with lot of bubble sweep down episodes.

July 21, 2009

Finished with running main scheme lines. Now running lines to fill in the holidays. Over night the ship transited to the ammunition dump site and started mapping in the dump site, located in priority 3 area. No noticeable items were detected in the dump site. The backscatter data were processed but due to bad weather did not provide any useful information about the type of the material.

July 22, 2009

After finishing dump site, the ship made few passes over reported wreck of USS Independence and located an object which seemed to be a wreck of a ship ~ 190 m long.



Figure 7. A plan view of USS Independence located in position 123.1346 W, 37.4779 N, compiled in Fledermaus.

11. Appendices

Appendix A. Tables of data files collected

XBT Locations:

| Date | Time | XBT/CTD Filename | Lat | Long | Remarks |
|--------|-------|------------------|------------|-------------|---------|
| | (GMT) | | | | |
| 071409 | 21:54 | TD_00001 | 46 5.28N | 124 12.19W | |
| 071509 | 18:04 | T6_00002 | 42 38.31N | 124 55.33W | |
| 071609 | 04:07 | TD_00003 | 40 54.43N | 124 44.95W | |
| 071609 | 20:48 | T6_00004 | 38 45.17N | 123 43.38W | |
| 071709 | 01:22 | T6_00005 | 38 10.94N | 123 26.78W | |
| 071709 | 07:28 | T6_00006 | 3819.26N | 123 31.69W | |
| 071709 | 13:08 | T6_00007 | 38 23.64 N | 123 34.79 W | |
| 071709 | 20:22 | TD_00008 | 38 13.50N | 123 31.77W | |
| 071809 | 01:05 | TD_00009 | 38 29.28N | 123 41.20W | |
| 071809 | 07:13 | TD_00010 | 38 9.85N | 123 33.38W | |
| 071809 | 13:03 | TD_00011 | 38 19.17N | 123 38.75W | |
| 071809 | 19:04 | TD_00012 | 38 2.30N | 123 33.91W | |
| 071909 | 01:24 | TD_00013 | 38 33.1N | 123 47.89W | |
| 071909 | 07:12 | TD_00014 | 37 51.51N | 123 31.21W | |
| 071909 | 13:00 | TD_00015 | 38 9.53N | 123 41.54W | |
| 072009 | 01:07 | TD_00016 | 37 55.23N | 123 29.21W | |
| 072009 | 12:52 | TD_00017 | 38 34.04N | 123 53.85W | |
| 072009 | 21:17 | TD_00018 | 40 54.50N | 124 44.95W | |
| 072109 | 01:13 | TD_00019 | 38 29.77N | 124 01.68W | |
| 072109 | 07:10 | TD_00020 | 37 55.27 N | 123 45.97W | |
| 072109 | 12:57 | TD_00021 | 37 55.27N | 123 45.97W | |
| 072109 | 21:22 | T6_00022 | 38 13.63N | 123 29.87W | |
| 072209 | 01:30 | TD_00024 | 38 7.48N | 123 44.23W | |
| 072209 | 08:07 | TD_00025 | 37 45.03N | 123 25.23W | |
| 072209 | 13:01 | TD_00026 | 37 40.36N | 123 30.00W | |
| 072209 | 20:37 | TD_00027 | 37 31.19N | 123 09.03W | |

Multibeam files collected during the cruise:

| Cruise | Date | File Name | Location | Remarks |
|--------|--------|-------------------------|--------------------|--|
| DayNo. | | | | |
| 2 | 071509 | 0000_20090715_003242_EX | Transit | Transit |
| | | 0001_20090715_012502_EX | | Transit |
| | | 0002_20090715_072501_EX | | Transit |
| | | 0003_20090715_132502_EX | | Transit |
| | | 0004_20090715_164528_EX | | Transit |
| | | 0005_20090715_183657_EX | | Transit |
| | | 0006_20090715_223507_EX | Plume site | Transit |
| 3 | 071609 | 0007_20090716_034420_EX | Plume site | Transit |
| | | 0008_20090716_063022_EX | Plume site | Transit |
| | | 0009_20090716_064152_EX | Plume site | Transit |
| | | 0010_20090716_081122_EX | Plume site | Transit |
| | | 0011_20090716_081931_EX | Plume site | Transit |
| | | 0012 20090716 083615 EX | Plume site | Transit |
| | | 0013 20090716 085824 EX | | Transit |
| | | 0000 20090716 202221 EX | | Transit |
| | | 0001 20090716 211442 EX | | Transit |
| | | 0002_20090716_222054_EX | Priority 1 & 2 | Start of box |
| 4 | 071709 | 0003_20090717_000030_EX | Bodega Canyon head | Start of new day (GMT) |
| | | 0004_20090717_004209_EX | | End line, start turn |
| | | 0005_20090717_010429_EX | | End turn, start line |
| | | 0006_20090717_033320_EX | | End line, start turn |
| | | 0007_20090717_034453_EX | | End turn, start line |
| | | 0008 20090717 060129 EX | | End line, start turn |
| | | 0009 20090717 060513 EX | | End turn, start line |
| | | 0010_20090717_084137_EX | | End line, start turn |
| | | 0011_20090717_985053_EX | | End turn, start line |
| | | 0012_20090717_110840_EX | | End line, start turn |
| | | 0013_20090717_111704_EX | | End turn, start line |
| | | 0014_20090717_134258_EX | | End line, start turn |
| | | 0015_20090717_134952_EX | | End turn, start line |
| | | 0016_20090717_160823_EX | | End line, start turn |
| | | 0017_20090717_161358_EX | | End turn, start line |
| | | 0018_20090717_183849_EX | | End line, start turn |
| | | 0019_20090717_184336_EX | | End turn, start line |
| | | 0020_20090717_210151_EX | | End line, start turn |
| | | 0021_20090717_211503_EX | | End turn, start line |
| 5 | 071809 | 0022_20090718_000317_EX | | End line, start turn |
| | | 0023_20090718_003452_EX | | End turn, start line |
| | | 0024_20090718_032527_EX | | Begin turn line |
| | | 0025_20090718_032911_EX | | Begin main line |
| | | 0026 20000718 045042 EV | | water column targets End line_start turn |
| | | 0020_20090/18_043943_EX | | End turn, start line |
| | | 0027_20090718_030040_EA | | End line start turn |
| | + | 0020_20090710_103400_EA | | End turn start line |
| 1 | 1 | 0027_20070/10_110310_EA | 1 | Lind turn, start lille |

| | | 0030 20090718 155921 EX | End line start turn |
|---|--------|-------------------------|--|
| | | 0031 20090718 162109 EX | End turn_start line |
| | | 0032 20090718 172547 FX | End line start turn |
| | | 0032_20090718_172347_EX | End turn start line |
| | | 0034 20000718 174620 EX | End line start turn |
| | | 0034_20090718_174029_EX | End turn, start line |
| 6 | 071000 | 0035_20090718_234028_EA | End line start turn |
| 0 | 0/1909 | 0036_20090719_020534_EX | End line, start turn |
| | | 0037_20090719_023945_EX | End turn, start line |
| | | 0038_20090719_073214_EX | End line, start turn |
| | | 0039_20090719_075741_EX | End turn, start line |
| | | 0040_20090719_130932_EX | Preserve file size, same line as line 39 |
| | | 0041_20090719_184643_EX | Turn to S/B to fill holiday |
| | | 0042_20090719_200343_EX | End turn, start line to fill holiday |
| | | 0043_20090719_214422_EX | |
| | | 0044_20090719_220557_EX | End south bound fill line. |
| 7 | 072009 | 0045_20090720_014232_EX | Begin transit to next holiday. |
| | | 0046_20090720_023807_EX | Filling in holiday northward |
| | | 0047_20090720_030330_EX | Transit line. |
| | | 0048_20090720_033345_EX | Filling in holiday northward |
| | | 0049 20090720 040012 EX | Transit line. |
| | | 0050 20090720 043814 EX | Filling in holiday southward |
| | | 0051 20090720 051109 EX | Transit line. |
| | | 0052 20090720 053458 EX | Filling in holiday northward |
| | | 0053 20090720 061144 EX | Filling in random holidays while |
| | | | heading north to begin next full line |
| | | 0054 20090720 071947 EX | New line to preserve data file size. |
| | | 0055 20090720 131949 EX | Transit, 6 hours elapsed |
| | | 0056 20090720 133514 EX | End transit, new line south |
| | | 0057 20090720 133519 EX | End line, start turn |
| | | 0058 20090720 194029 EX | Northbound |
| 8 | 072109 | 0059 20090721 014033 EX | Turn line |
| | 0,210) | 0060 20090721 014240 EX | Turn line continued |
| | | 0061 20090721 022001 EX | New line southward |
| | | 0062 20090721 072105 EX | End line start turn |
| | | 0063 20090721 082212 EX | End turn start line |
| | | 0064 20090721 130342 FX | Line continued incremented to |
| | | 000+_20090721_1303+2_LA | conserve file size |
| | | 0065 20090721 151048 EX | |
| | | 0066 20090721 153809 EX | POS malfunction- POSMV rebooted |
| | | 0067 20090721 163536 FX | End turn start line |
| | | 0068 20090721 170928 EX | End line start turn |
| | | 0060_20090721_170928_EX | End turn, start gross line: |
| | | 0009_20090721_171824_EA | Water column date |
| | | 0070 20090721 200807 FX | End cross line start turn transit turn |
| | | 0070_20090721_200807_EX | End turn, start gross line |
| 0 | 072200 | 0072 20000722 000108 EV | ctort turn line |
| 9 | 072209 | 0072_20090722_000108_EA | |
| | | 0074 20000722 01572C EX | |
| | | 0074_20090722_015726_EX | |
| | | 0075_20090722_022727_EX | Survey line south |
| | | 0076_20090722_024527_EX | Transit line |
| | | 0077_20090722_040717_EX | Survey line south |
| | | 0078_20090722_045949_EX | Transit line |

| | | 0079_20090722_054732_EX | | Survey line south |
|---|--------|-------------------------|---------------------|--|
| 0 | 72209 | 0000_20090722_065138_EX | Munitions Dump Site | Dump site line 0 |
| | | 0001_20090722_072053_EX | | Transit to dump site line 1 |
| | | 0002_20090722_073000_EX | | Beginning line 1 |
| | | 0003_20090722_073009_EX | | Dump site line 1 |
| | | 0004_20090722_084538_EX | | Turn from line 1 line 2 |
| | | 0005_20090722_090147_EX | | Dump site line 2 |
| | | 0006_20090722_111113_EX | | Transit from line 2 to line 3 |
| | | 0007_20090722_114947_EX | | Dump site line 3 |
| | | 0008_20090722_140255_EX | | Transit from line 3 to line 4 |
| | | 0009_20090722_142455_EX | | Dump site line 4 |
| | | 0010_20090722_170333_EX | | End line, start turn |
| | | 0011_20090722_171901_EX | | End turn, start Dump site line 5 |
| | | 0012_20090722_192918_EX | | Transit to USS Independence |
| 0 | 072209 | 0000_20090722_200531_EX | USS Independence | Continue transit to USS Independence |
| | | 0001_20090722_203850_EX | | 1 st Independence survey line |
| | | 0002_20090722_210542_EX | | Broke line, continue line |
| | | 0003_20090722_211805_EX | | Turn line |
| | | 0004_20090722_212738_EX | | NW/b detect target |
| | | 0005_20090722_215904_EX | | Turn line |
| | | 0006_20090722_221848_EX | | SW/b line- |
| | | | | bubble sweepdown- |
| | | | | lost bottom |
| | | 0007_20070722_223056_EX | | N/b detect target |
| | | | | S/b detect target |
| | | 0008_20090722_225705_EX | | |

Appendix B: List of Acronyms

- BIST Built In System Test
- CBNMS Cordell Bank Marine National Sanctuary
- CO Commanding Officer
- CIMS Cruise Information Management System
- CTD conductivity temperature and depth
- CW continuous wave
- dB-decibels
- DGPS –Differential Global Positioning System
- DTM digital terrain model
- ECS Extended Continental Shelf
- ET Electronics Technician
- EX NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer
- FM frequency modulation
- FOO Field Operations Officer

GFNMS - Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

- kHz kilohertz
- Km kilometers
- KM Kongsberg Maritime AS
- Kt(s) knots
- Ma megaannum
- MBES multibeam echosounder
- NCDDC National Coastal Data Development Center
- NGDC National Geophysical Data Center
- NMS National Marine Sanctuary
- NOAA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- NODC National Oceanographic Data Center
- OER Office of Ocean Exploration and Research
- OMAO Office of Marine and Aviation Operations
- OCNMS Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
- ROV Remotely Operated Vehicle
- SST Senior Survey Technician
- SV sound velocity
- TRU transmit and receive unit
- TSG thermosalinograph

UNH-CCOM/JHC – University of New Hampshire Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping / Joint Hydrographic Center

- UPS uninterruptable power supply
- US EEZ United States Exclusive Economic Zone
- USBL ultra-short base line
- WD water depth
- XBT expendable bathythermograph

Appendix C: EM302 description and operational specs

EM 302 : Ideal for Ocean Exploration

There are several features of the Okeanos Explorer's 30 kHz multibeam that make it an excellent tool for ocean exploration. The following is a brief description of these features.

Depth Range

The system is designed to map the seafloor in water depths of 10 to 7000 meters. This leaves only the deepest parts of the deeper ocean trenches out of the EM 302's reach. Moreover, operational experience on the *Okeanos Explorer* has shown consistent EM 302 bottom detection at depth ranges in excess of 8000m.

High Density Data

In multibeam data, the denser the data, the finer resolution maps you can produce. The system can operate in dual swath, or multiping mode, which results in increased along track data density. This is achieved by detecting two swaths per ping cycle, resulting in up to 864 beams per ping.

The Okeanos Explorer mapping team typically operates the multibeam in high density equidistant ping mode, which results in up to 864 soundings on the seafloor per ping.

Full Suite of Data Types Collected

The system collects seafloor backscatter data, which provides information about the character of the seafloor in terms of bottom type.

The system also collects water column backscatter data, which has the ability to detect gaseous plumes in the water column. The full value of this feature is still being realized.

FM chirp mode is utilized in water depths greater than 1000 meters, and allows for the detection of the bottom further out from nadir than with previous 30 kHz systems.

Multibeam Primer

The area of the seafloor covered, or ensonified, by a single beam within a pulse of sound, or ping, is called the beam footprint. This beam footprint is defined in terms of the across track and along track values. Both of these values are dependent on water depth and the beam width at which the sound pulse is transmitted and received. The across track beam width value is also dependent on the receive angle, or "listening" angle, of the system, and the angle from nadir which it is received from. The receive angle for the receive transducer on the Okeanos Explorer EM302 is 1°, which is the smallest possible angle currently available for the EM302 system. The further out from nadir a sounding occurs, the larger the footprint will be. For example, as seen in Table 1 below, in 2000 meters of water, a beam footprint will have a radius of 18 meters at nadir but 25 meters by the time it hits the seafloor at an angle 140 degrees out from nadir.

| Calculated acrosstrack acoustic beam footprint for EM 302 (high density ping mode, 432 soundings/profile) | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|--|--|
| Water depth (m) | Angle from nadi | r | | | | |
| | | 90 | 120 | 140 | | |
| 50 | 1 deg RX center | deg | deg | deg | | |
| 100 | 1 | 0.5 | 1 | 1 | | |
| 200 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | | |
| 400 | 4 2 3 5 | | | | | |
| 1000 | 7 4 6 10 | | | | | |
| 2000 | 18 | 9 | 16 | 25 | | |
| 4000 | 35 | 19 | 32 | - | | |

| 6000 | 70 | 37 | - | - |
|------|-----|----|---|---|
| 7000 | 105 | 56 | - | - |

Table 1. Calculated across track EM 302 beam footprint. Reference: Kongsberg Productdescription, Kongsberg document 302675 Rev B, Date 14/06/06, p. 17.

| Calculated acrosstrack | sounding | density for | r EM 302 | | | | | |
|---|----------|-------------|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| (high density ping mode, 432 soundings/profile) | | | | | | | | |
| Water depth (m) | Swath Wi | idth | | | | | | |
| 50 | 90 deg | 120 deg | 140 deg | | | | | |
| 100 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.9 | | | | | |
| 200 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 1.7 | | | | | |
| 400 | 0.9 | 1.6 | 3.5 | | | | | |
| 1000 | 1.9 | 3.2 | 6.9 | | | | | |
| 2000 | 4.6 | 8.1 | 17.4 | | | | | |
| 4000 | 9.3 | 16.2 | - | | | | | |

Table 2. Calculated across track EM 302 sounding density. Reference: Kongsberg Productdescription, Kongsberg document 302675 Rev B, Date 14/06/06, p. 17.

Acrosstrack sounding density describes the spacing between individual soundings on the seafloor in the acrosstrack direction. The maximum swath of the EM 302 is 150 degrees. At this swath, the sounding density will be the least dense, since the beams will be spread out over a larger horizontal distance over the seafloor. As the swath angle (width) is decreased, the sounding density will increase, as the same number of beams are now spread out over a smaller horizontal distance over the seafloor.

| Calculated ping rate and alongtrack resolution for EM 302 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|--------------|-------|----------------|------|--|--------|---------|--|--|--|--|
| 140 deg swath, one profile per ping | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | Alongtrack distance between profiles (m) | | | | | | |
| Water | depth | Swath | Width | Ping | Rate | | | | | | | |
| (m) | | (m) | | (pings/second) | | @4 kts | @8 kts | @12 kts | | | | |
| 50 | | 275 | | 3.2 | | 0.7 | 1.2 | 1.9 | | | | |
| 100 | | 550 | | 1.8 | | 1.1 | 2.2 | 3.3 | | | | |
| 200 | | 1100 | | 1 | | 2.1 | 4.2 | 6.3 | | | | |
| 400 | | 2200 | | 0.5 | | 4.1 | 8.2 | 12.2 | | | | |
| 1000 | | 5500 | | 0.2 | | 10 | 20 | 30 | | | | |
| 2000 | | 8000 | | 0.1 | | 15.2 | 30.5 | 45.7 | | | | |
| 4000 | | 8000 | | 0.06 | | 19.2 | 38.5 | 57.7 | | | | |
| 6000 | | 8000 | | 0.04 | | 24.5 | 49 | 73.4 | | | | |

Table 3. Calculated ping rate and along track EM 302 sounding density, one profile per ping. Reference: Kongsberg Product description, Kongsberg document 302675 Rev B, Date 14/06/06, p. 15.

| Calculated ping rate and alongtrack resolution for EM 302 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|--|--------|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 140 deg swath, two profiles per ping | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Water | depth | Swath | | Alongtrack distance between profiles (m) | | | | | | | | |
| (m) | | Width (m) | Ping Rate | @4 kts | @8 kts | @12 kts | | | | | | |
| 50 | | 275 | 3.2 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.9 | | | | | | |
| 100 | | 550 | 1.8 | 0.6 | 1.1 | 1.7 | | | | | | |
| 200 | | 1100 | 1 | 1.1 | 2.1 | 3.2 | | | | | | |
| 400 | | 2200 | 0.5 | 2 | 4.1 | 6.1 | | | | | | |
| 1000 | | 5500 | 0.2 | 5 | 10 | 15 | | | | | | |
| 2000 | | 8000 | 0.1 | 7.6 | 15.2 | 22.8 | | | | | | |

Table 4. Calculated ping rate and along track EM 302 sounding density, two profiles per ping. Reference: Kongsberg Product description, Kongsberg document 302675 Rev B, Date 14/06/06, p. 15.

Reference: Kongsberg Product Description: EM 302 multibeam echosounder

Appendix D: Field products showing data results: Overview of Exploration Area



EX0907 Mapping Data Report